

REMARKS

Note: In the Amendment filed on September 8, 2003, it was Applicants' intention *inter alia* to amend Claim 4. However, the parenthetical description of Claim 4 at page 4 of the Amendment is shown as "(Draft-Currently Amended)". The description should have read --(Currently Amended)--. The enclosure with the Notice of Allowability mailed on December 3, 2003, indicates that the "amendment filed on 09/08/2003 has been entered." This Amendment has been prepared with the understanding that Claim 4 has been amended as shown with strike-through and underlineation in the Amendment filed September 8, 2003.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 9 through 12, and 25 through 30, and 37 through 40 are now pending in the application. Claims 31 through 36 have been canceled. Claims 1, 10, and 25 through 30 have been amended to even more succinctly define the invention and/or to improve their form. Newly presented Claims 37 through 40 are submitted to accord Applicants with an additional scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure. Claim 1 is the only independent claim. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

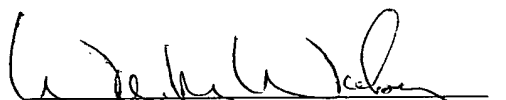
Claims 1, 4, 6, 9 through 12, and 25 through 36 heretofore on file were allowed prior to filing of a Request for Continued Examination on even date. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments presented herein do not affect the allowability of the claims previously on file and pending in the application.

It is also respectfully submitted that newly added Claims 37 through 40 also are allowable.

Favorable consideration hereof and early passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the below-shown address.

Respectfully submitted,



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